Claims

5   1. Method of configuring a business process for scheduling,

the business process comprising a plurality of activities, each activity compris-
ing at least one of a start date type and a stop date type; the activities being in
a time relationship to each other; wherein

the business process is freely configurable with respect to the plurality of ac-

10   tivities and with respect to the time relationships of the activities to each other.

2. The method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein a technical ID
is associated with an activity or with a date type.

15   3. The method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein a text is associ-
ated with an activity or with a date type, the text being descriptive for the ac-
tivity or for the date type.

4. The method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein time units are

20   assigned to specific date types, the time units being freely configurable for
each date type.

5. The method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein an activity can
be modeled as a plurality of sub-processes.

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6. The method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein a sub-process
comprise a plurality of activities.

7. The method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein a decision

30   whether or not a delegation is invoked is during run-time of the scheduling.

8. The method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said service functions being usable for determination of time zone, calendar and duration of an activity.

9. The method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein at least one service function is assigned to at least one activity, the service function being usable, during scheduling, for determining start date and/ or finish date of the at least one activity.

10. The method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein at least one delegation scheme is assigned to at least one activity, the delegation the service function being usable for invoking, during scheduling, an external application for determining start date and/ or finish date of the at least one activity.

11. The method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the activities and their time relationship are representable as a network of nodes and edges, each node representing one of the plurality of activities, and each edge connecting a pair of nodes and representing a predecessor-successor relationship of the activities represented by the respective pair of nodes.

12. The method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein a scheduling scheme is produced based on the configured business process, whereby the scheduling scheme is a set of meta data descriptive of how the individual activities are to be processed within scheduling.

13. The method according to claim 1, wherein a scheduling scheme is associated to the business process, the scheduling scheme comprising configuration data to at least one of duration, calendar, and time zone.

14. The method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein a scheduling scheme is associated to the business process, the scheduling scheme comprising configuration data to at least one of service function, and delegation process model.

15. A method of scheduling a business process, whereby the business process is configured with the method preferably according to claim 1.

16. Method of configuring a production process for simulating,

the production process comprising a plurality of steps, each step comprising at least one of a start date type and a stop date type; the steps being in a time relationship to each other; wherein

the production process is freely configurable with respect to the plurality of steps and with respect to the time relationships of the steps to each other.

17. A computer system for performing the method according to one of the preceding claims.

18. A computer-readable storage medium comprising program code for performing the method according to one of claims 1 to 16, when loaded into a computer system.